



**Testimony Regarding HB-6659, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025 and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Airport Authority

Joint Committee on Appropriations  
February 27, 2023

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Kevin Dillon, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA). **I am submitting this testimony regarding HB-6659, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025 and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

The CAA was established as a quasi-public agency in 2011, assuming control over the state's airports and the Department of Transportation's regulatory responsibilities over aviation matters later in 2013. The Authority was formed as a result of the belief of policymakers that, due to the onerous nature of state-imposed requirements on state agencies, the state's airports were not able to grow and thrive to their full potential. In its short tenure, the CAA has already had major development successes at Bradley International Airport, including the reestablishment of west coast and transatlantic flights, seven consecutive years of passenger growth prior to the pandemic, and repeated recognition by top travel publications across the country. The CAA also has a strong track record at its general aviation (GA) airports, with tens of millions of private dollars secured in the further development of infrastructure and services at Waterbury-Oxford Airport over the past year alone. Collectively, CAA airports support \$4 billion of total economic output, including support of over 25,000 jobs.

The CAA is deeply supportive of efforts to strengthen the tourism industry in the state. We are focused on creating linkages to new domestic and international destinations at Bradley International Airport, and a critical component of sustaining those services relies on the state's attractiveness to inbound travelers. We have enjoyed a strong working relationship with the State Office of Tourism and various attractions throughout the state, and it is critical that these organizations all have sufficient funding to expand their offerings and continue promoting the state domestically and abroad. When adequately funded, state investments in arts, culture, and tourism return \$3 in revenues for every \$1 invested. If we commit to meaningful and reliable investments in the sector, we can make a smart, efficient investment in our state, make the state more attractive to visitors, and, as a result, contribute towards enhancing the nonstop route network at Bradley International Airport.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. You can also always feel free to contact me at (860) 292-2054 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin A. Dillon".

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Airport Authority